

# WEEKLY TALLAHASSEEAN

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## LEGISLATIVE NEWS

### Abstract of the Daily Proceedings of Both Houses

### TOLD IN A VERY BRIEF FORM

For the Convenience of Readers Too Busy to Read the Journal.

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1901.

The House met pursuant to adjournment.

The Speaker in the chair, following members answered to their names:

Mr. Speaker, Messrs. Amos Anderson, Bates, Blair, Blanton, Brown, Burr, Chambers, Clarke, Close, Crawford, Corbett, Davidson, Davis, Dowd, Duckworth, Gilen, Godfrey, Gorton, Griggs, Grant, Gunn, Harvell, Henry, Hopkins, Hunter, Jackson, Jacoby, Johnson, Jones, Koonce, Lee, McElroy, McRae of Pasco, McRae of Putnam, Osteen, Palmer, Parish of Holmes, Pinholster, Raney, Raulerson, Redding, Rivers of Alachua, Rivers of Columbia, Russell, Shomaker, Sledge, Smith, Sparkman, Umstead, Wall, Whaley, Williamson, Wilson, Wolfe, Young and Zawadski—61.

#### INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. Palmer of Orange submitted the following:

A Concurrent Resolution relative to the Jacksonville conflagration:

Whereas, on the 3d, day of May, 1901, a disastrous conflagration occurred in the city of Jacksonville, the commercial gateway and metropolis of our State, and millions of property were destroyed and thousands of her people made homeless.

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Florida, the State concurring:

First, That it is with profound regret that the Legislature has learned of the extended and destructive fire and its ravages, and extends to the people of Jacksonville its sincere sympathy in this hour of terrible visitation of flames.

Second, That this resolution be spread upon the journals and a certified copy be sent to the Mayor of Jacksonville.

Adopted.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.

By Mr. Brown, H B No. 354: To repeal an act entitled an act to provide for the regulation of railroad schedules, freights, express, sleeping car and passenger tariffs and building of freight and passenger depots in this State; to prevent unjust discrimination in the rates charged for the transportation of passengers and freight, and to prohibit railroad companies, corporations, persons and all common carriers in this State from charging other than just and reasonable rates, and to enforce the same; and to prescribe a mode of procedure and rules of evidence in relation thereto; and to provide for the appointment and election of commissioners, and to prescribe their duties and powers, approved May 8, 1897, and to repeal all acts revising and amendatory thereof; referred to Committee on Railroads and Telegraphs.

By Mr. Lee, (by request), H B No. 355: To authorize sheriffs and other peace officers to arrest persons on Sunday, with or without warrants; referred to Committee on Judiciary.

By Mr. Williamson, H B No. 356: To authorize the town of Clearwater to issue bonds for the purpose of purchasing a site, erecting and maintaining a public school building thereon, referred to Committee on City and County Organization.

By Mr. Crawford, H B No. 357: To provide for the planting of suitable shade trees along the public roads and highways

of the State of Florida, referred to the Committee on Public Roads and Highways.

By Mr. Osteen, H B No. 358: Act to repeal Sections of the Revised Statutes of the State of Florida relating to the State Board of Health, referred to Committee on Public Health.

H B No. 193: For the preservation of wild deer, birds and other game, and to prescribe the time within which they may be hunted, and prescribing a penalty for any violation thereof. Passed.

#### BILLS PASSED.

S B No. 85: To amend Sections 1, 2 and 3 of Chapter 4774, Laws of Florida, being an act to provide for working, repairing and maintaining the public roads and bridges in Levy county by contracts, and to provide penalties for failure thereof. Passed.

S B No. 171: To extend the time for the building and completion of the South American and International Railroad. Passed.

#### Adjourned.

#### SENATE, MAY 6.

Senate met pursuant to adjournment. Mr. Crill, the President, pro tem., in the chair. The following Senators answered to their names:

Messrs. Adams, Baker, Blitch, Broome, Butler, Carson, Cottrell, Crews, Crill, Kirk, Law, Miller, McCaskill, McCreary, Neel, O'Brien, Whidden, Sams, Wilson of 7th and Wadsworth—20.

#### Introduction of Resolutions.

By Mr. Sams: S. R. No. 22: Whereas, the Senate of the State of Florida has heard with profound sorrow of the disastrous fire that occurred in the city of Jacksonville on Friday last, causing the loss of millions of dollars' worth of property and making homeless about ten thousand of its citizens, whose condition was such as to cause an appeal to be made for assistance; and

Whereas, the Senate not being in session when the appeal reached Tallahassee; several of the Senators called upon the Governor and urged that he place the sum of \$20,000 at the disposal of a relief committee for immediate use, stating that the Legislature would undoubtedly endorse such action of the Chief Executive; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the action of the Senators requesting the Governor to send \$20,000 to Jacksonville for immediate use is hereby endorsed and approved by this body.

Resolved, further, That these resolutions be spread upon the Journal of this body.

Adopted.

#### Introduction of Bills.

By Mr. O'Brien: S. B. No. 222: To appropriate \$20,000 for the relief of the city of Jacksonville. Rules waived and passed.

By Mr. Miller: S. B. No. 223: To amend Chapter 4876, Laws of Florida, entitled an act to incorporate the town of Vernon, in Washington county, Florida, and to provide for the election of municipal officers. Rules waived and passed.

By Mr. McCreary: S. B. No. 224: To provide for the participation of the State of Florida in the South Carolina and West Indian Exposition, and making an appropriation therefor. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. Kirk: S. B. No. 225: To extend the time for commencing work on the Western Peninsular Railroad Company, and to extend the term of its completion and securing and confirming to said company all its rights, grants and privileges heretofore granted, and giving to said company the right to change its Southern terminus. Referred to Committee on Railroads.

By Mr. McCaskill: S. B. No. 226: To amend Section 13, Chapter 4192, Laws of Florida, relating to teachers' examination. Referred to Committee on Education.

By Mr. Butler: S. B. No. 227: To prohibit the transportation for sale of food fish caught from waters in Lake county, beyond the limits of said county; and to fix a penalty for the violation thereof. Referred to the Committee on Fisheries.

By Mr. Carson: S. B. No. 228: Authorizing the appointment of sheep inspectors, and defining the duties of such inspectors. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

By Mr. Wilson of 7th: S. B. No. 229: Making appropriations for the purchase by the State Board of Education of the grounds, buildings

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#### Resolutions of Respect.

The following resolutions of respect on the death of Adjutant-General Patrick Houston were passed by the Senate and House of Representatives during their session of May 1, 1901.

#### SENATE RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. Broome, Chairman of the Special Committee appointed to draft suitable resolutions of respect on the death of Adjutant-General Patrick Houston, submitted the following report:

Senate Chamber,  
Tallahassee, Fla., May 7, 1901.  
Hon. Thomas Palmer,  
President of the Senate.

Sir—Your Committee to draft suitable resolutions expressive of the sense of the Senate in reference to the death of Adjutant-General P. Houston, present the following:

Whereas, it has pleased Almighty God to remove from us by death General P. Houston, Adjutant-General of the State, and a distinguished citizen; and

Whereas, it is proper that the Senate should give some public expression of its feelings and sympathies on so mournful an occasion: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That we tender our deepest sympathies to the family in this, the hour of their great bereavement, with the hope that they may receive consolation in the knowledge that the character and virtues of the deceased were fully known and properly appreciated by his fellow-citizens.

Be it further resolved, That by the death of Gen. Houston, the State has been deprived of one of her most useful, exemplary and public-spirited citizens, one whose public and private virtues are worthy of respect and emulation; and if to love one's country, to obey its laws, to defend its rights, and to labor in the promotion of its interests be deserving of public commendation, then do we award him our praise, for he possesses these virtues in which both the public officer and the private citizen are absolutely necessary for the preservation of our republican institutions and the success of popular government.

Be it further resolved, That the Secretary be requested to transmit a copy of the resolutions to the family of the deceased. Very respectfully,

JAMES E. BROOME,  
Chairman of Committee.

Mr. Wolfe of Escambia, Chairman of the Committee to draft suitable resolutions relative to the death of General Houston, submitted the following report:

Whereas; Death, the silent reaper, on the 6th day of May, 1901; at Tallahassee, Florida, garnered for the harvest of glory above the form of General Patrick Houston, Adjutant-General of the State of Florida, and,

Whereas; General Houston for nearly a half century has been prominent in the civil and military life of this State as a soldier of the Confederacy, the President of the Florida State Senate during two sessions of the Legislature, and for the last eight years of his life Adjutant-General of the State of Florida, and

Whereas, In all the relations of life, both as a private citizen, a soldier and a statesman, he always exhibited the qualities that should distinguish true manhood in its perfection.

Therefore be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Florida:

1. That the members of this body have learned with deep regret of the death of General Houston, by which unhappy event the State has lost a pure and upright statesman, the county of Leon a valuable citizen and his family and friends a loving father and companion.

2. That we tender to the family of General Houston our sincere sympathy in their hour of deep sorrow, and commend them to the care of the Divine Comforter who will

heal the wounds of the broken hearted.

3. That these resolutions be spread upon the Journal of the House, a copy duly enrolled be delivered by the Chief Clerk to the family of the late General Patrick Houston, and that as a further mark of respect to his memory this House do stand adjourned until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

S. EMMET WOLFE,  
JOHN P. WALL,  
JOHN G. McGIFFIN,  
Committee.

#### Report on Streets.

Tallahassee, Fla., May 9, 1901.  
Hon. Frank W. Armstrong,  
President City Council of Tallahassee, Tallahassee, Florida.

Sir—Your Committee on Streets begs leave to make the following report:

For a month and a half last past, the Chairman of this Committee has employed Mr. J. W. Bushnell, an engineer of great ability and energy at a salary of \$40.00 per month to do the engineering work of the city with the expectation of requesting the Council to appoint him as City Engineer, if we should discover that the value of his service should justify such action on our part.

After a conference with Mr. Bushnell, we decided that the most economical plan to pursue relative to working the streets would be to take one street and concentrate the most of our time and energy upon grading it in such manner as to make practically a permanent piece of work out of it. It is not a part of our plan to absolutely neglect the work on the other streets, for we fully realize that such a scheme would be thoroughly impractical. But we plan to do all necessary work on other streets at the least possible expense.

In pursuance of the above mentioned plan, we selected Monroe street, the Broadway of Tallahassee, as the one upon which to begin our operations. With the limited force at our disposal and by reason of the crudeness of our appliances for working, we have been able to make headway, but slowly. The work has progressed as far south on Monroe street as the Hirschberg residence, and that, which has been accomplished, is still in an embryotic state, but when completed will, in our judgment, be as fine a piece of street work and as permanent as could be accomplished without the use of stone, brick or asphalt. We have been advised by Mr. Bushnell that for five years scarcely no work will be necessary upon it, and even after the expiration of that time the work required will be insignificant.

It was the intention of former street committees to have a 6-foot grass plot or quasi park in the centre of a portion of Monroe street. It is our purpose to carry out their intention as far as we can, aside from the ornamental feature of the plan, which will add greatly to the natural beauty of the street, the great economy of it is evident when we consider how much the surface to be graded and kept in condition is lessened.

Many and loud have been the complaints that have come to the ears of the Council, relative to the condition of the sidewalks in many portions of the city. In recognition of the justice of these complaints and the necessity of systematic, but conservative reform in this direction, we have adopted a plan, subject, however, as a matter of course, to change, if it meets with the disapproval of the Council. Our plan, as adopted, is to have sidewalks properly graded and curbed, as the work of grading on each street progresses. Having lacked about \$90.00 of using two-twelfths of the street appropriation for this fiscal year during the months of February and March, I instructed Mr. Bushnell to order a sufficient quantity of lumber to curb the sidewalks for the

distance of a block on each side of the north end of Monroe street, except the sidewalk abutting the property of Mr. Jno. S. Winthrop, which already has been curbed with stone in a very substantial manner according to the official grade lines made by this gentleman under the direction of Capt. Bushnell. Our object is to make a model block of it so that it may serve as an educator to the other abutting property owners of the city. It is needless to say that as long as the material with which a sidewalk is curbed endures, it will need practically no further work upon it. In our judgment we have adopted the proper manner of handling the sidewalk question. We have some difficulty at times in persuading the abutting property owner to fulfill the requirements of the Committee, but we hope to arouse such general enthusiasm and interest in our work that the people, seeing the wisdom of our course and the reasonableness of our demands, will gladly co-operate with us in our street work. In case any abutting property owner should decline to properly grade and curb his sidewalk, it will be our duty to avail ourselves of the provisions of Chapter XVIII of the laws and ordinances of the city of Tallahassee. Thus we will state in this connection that it is essential, if our street work is to have the permanency hereinbefore described, that the sidewalks should be curbed as the work progresses. Wooden curbing can be used at a relatively small expense by each abutting property owner, and will last about ten years if first-class, all heart, lumber is used. We have no intention of disturbing any curbing of a permanent character that has already been put in, even though it should not conform to official grade lines. While the reform regarding sidewalks, suggested by us, may appear to some members of the Council as being somewhat radical, we think that upon a careful consideration of the subject they will conclude that it is proper. If it be true reformation should be accomplished at some time, when, may we ask, is it to take place, if not now? If each Council throws the responsibility upon its successor, when will the work be done? We are of the opinion that now is as good a time as any for the reform movement to be inaugurated. We will go further and say that it is preeminently the proper time, now that the capital is to remain here for all time and to be greatly enlarged; now that our railroad facilities are to be increased and increased in emigration invited within our borders. We certainly ought to be able to show to all those, who desire to cast their lot among us, streets and sidewalks well adapted to travel of all kinds.

Therefore, believing it to be to the best interests of the people of Tallahassee, we hereby recommend that Mr. J. W. Bushnell be appointed city engineer, provided his service can be secured at a salary which the city is able to pay.

JOSEPH EDMONDSON,  
Chairman Street Committee.

#### Working 24 Hours a Day.

There's no rest for those tireless little workers—Dr. King's New Life Pills. Millions are always busy, curing Torpid Liver, Jaundice, Bilelessness, Fever and Ague. They banish Sick Headache, drive out Malaria. Never gripe or weaken. Small, taste nice, work wonders. Try them. 25c at all druggists.

#### CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE.

The Senate, in executive session, confirmed the following appointments sent in by the Governor for their approval:

Hon. Chas. B. Parkhill, to be City Attorney at Pensacola; Judge A. C. Blount, to be Judge of the Criminal Court of Record, and Hon. J. Walter Kehoe, to be State's Attorney for the First Judicial Circuit.

#### An Uncertain Disease.

There is no disease more uncertain in its nature than dyspepsia. Physicians say that the symptoms of no two cases agree. It is therefore most difficult to make a correct diagnosis. No matter how severe, or under what disguised dyspepsia attacks you, Brown's Iron Bitters will cure it. Invaluable in all diseases of the stomach, blood and nerves. Brown's Iron Bitters is sold by all dealers.

## AGAINST THE SYSTEM

### Of Leasing State Convicts to Mine Phosphates

### A MONSTER PETITION FILED

By Citizens of all Classes Asking for a Change.

The following petition has been presented to the Legislature of Florida, Session of 1901: The undersigned, who are principally persons, firms and corporations engaged in the phosphate industry in this State, and who employ free labor in their business, desire to state to your honorable body some reasons why the employment of convict labor in the phosphate business in this State should cease.

To the Honorable Senators and Representatives in the Legislature of Florida, Session of 1901: The undersigned, who are principally persons, firms and corporations engaged in the phosphate industry in this State, and who employ free labor in their business, desire to state to your honorable body some reasons why the employment of convict labor in the phosphate business in this State should cease.

We assert that the present depressed condition of the trade is due principally, if not solely, to the fact that large numbers of the State convicts are held under lease by certain miners of phosphate rock and kept constantly employed, under necessity of keeping said convicts at work in producing rock, without regard to the condition of the market, or its effect in depressing prices. In this way, one of the greatest industries of our State is kept in a languishing state, and our citizens who have invested in the aggregate millions of dollars in this branch of industry have already sustained enormous losses, and are threatened with still further disaster.

We assign the following reasons for making such a change in the present system as will exclude the employment of State convicts in phosphate mining, to-wit:

1. That practically all the cruelty and inhumanity incident to the leasing of convicts and their employment has been developed at the phosphate mines.

2. A proper regard for humanity requires that these convicts should not be placed, especially during certain months of the year, in phosphate pits, where they are compelled to endure hardships, which are well-nigh insupportable.

3. Any system of dealing with the State convicts should not be permitted to continue which concentrates in one locality of the State such a large mass of convict labor in competition with free labor. We ask you to look at the results of this in the hard-rock phosphate belt. The small retail merchant has been practically driven out of business; free labor is disorganized, and the general condition of business as a result of the employment of these convicts in the mines, is worse than it has ever been in this section of the State.

4. Some system should be devised for the employment of these convicts, if they are to be leased at all, over the State generally, so as to prevent concentration of the evils and minimize the bad results as much as possible.

5. The system of hiring convicts, whether State or county, to persons engaged in such industries as the phosphate business, is a vicious one. If you will investigate the condition of affairs in Alachua, Marion and Citrus counties, where such system is in operation, you will find that there are gross abuses, such as bringing false charges against laboring men for the purpose of forcing them into the convict camps, continual friction between the employers of convicts and those of free labor, and interference by the former to the detriment of the latter in the employment of labor.

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